

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1                   1.     A method of constructing an article of waterproof footwear, comprising:
  - 2                   (a)     shaping a lower from at least one piece of material by joining the  
3 material with at least one seam, wherein the lower has an upper circumference that defines a  
4 top opening and a lower circumference that defines a bottom opening;  
5                   (b)     attaching the upper circumference of the lower to a complementary lower  
6 portion of an upper to form a second seam;  
7                   (c)     sealing at least the lower in a waterproof manner; and  
8                   (d)     sealing the bottom opening of the lower to form a footbed of an article of  
9 waterproof footwear.
- 1                   2.     The method of claim 1 further comprising attaching an outsole to the  
2 footbed of the article of waterproof footwear.
- 1                   3.     The method of claim 1 wherein the material comprises waterproof  
2 material.
- 1                   4.     The method of claim 1 wherein the material is substantially planar.
- 1                   5.     The method of claim 3 wherein the waterproof material consists of a  
2 single piece of waterproof material.

1           6.     The method of claim 5 wherein the waterproof material is selected from  
2 the group consisting of rubber, polymers, and waterproof leather.

1           7.     The method of claim 6 wherein the waterproof material selected is  
2 rubber and the rubber is molded rubber.

1           8.     The method of claim 6 wherein the waterproof material selected is  
2 rubber further comprising vulcanizing the rubber.

1           9.     The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one seam and the second  
2 seam are sealed by stitching.

1           10.    The method of claim 9 wherein the material consists of rubber that is  
2 capable of holding a stitch.

1           11.    The method of claim 1 further comprising disposing a liner adjacent to  
2 an inner surface of the lower or an inner surface of the upper through the bottom opening of  
3 the lower and attaching the liner to the inner surface of the lower or the inner surface of the  
4 upper.

1           12.    The method of claim 1 wherein sealing at least the lower in a waterproof  
2 manner is achieved by disposing a waterproof liner adjacent an interior surface of the lower  
3 through the bottom opening.

1           13.    The method of claim 1 wherein sealing at least the lower in a waterproof  
2 manner is achieved by sealing the at least one seam and the second seam in a waterproof  
3 manner by accessing the at least one seam and the second seam through the bottom opening of  
4 the lower.

14. A method of constructing a waterproof boot, comprising:

(a) Forming a lower from a single piece of substantially planar, generally U-shaped piece of rubber by joining the open end of the generally U-shaped piece with a seam, the lower having an upper perimeter defining a top opening and a lower perimeter defining a bottom opening;

(b) attaching the perimeter of the upper portion of the lower and a complementary lower portion of an upper to form a seam connection;

(c) sealing the seam and the seam connection in a waterproof manner by accessing the seam and seam connection through the bottom opening of the lower; and

(d) sealing the bottom opening of the lower with a gasket in a waterproof manner to form a footbed of a waterproof boot.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the seam is located in a heel portion of the waterproof boot.

16. The method of claim 14 further comprising joining a sole to the footbed of the waterproof boot.

17. The method of claim 14 further comprising vulcanizing the rubber.

18. The method of claim 14 wherein the seam and the seam connection are stitched.

19. The method of claim 14 wherein the single piece of substantially planar, generally U-shaped piece of rubber is molded rubber.

20. The method of claim 14 further comprising disposing a liner adjacent to an inner surface of the lower by accessing the inner surface of the lower through the bottom opening of the lower and attaching the liner to the inner surface of the lower.